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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In accordance with General Assembly decision 56/443 of 21 December 2001, the present report provides an update of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session (A/56/134 and Add.1) and is based on information received from Member States and relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations on programmes and activities undertaken in cooperation with the Southern African Development Community since the publication of the above-mentioned report.

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I. Introduction

1. In its decision 56/443, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee (A/56/562/Add.2, para. 12), and recalling its resolution 37/248 of 21 December 1982 and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions on the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), took note of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and SADC (A/56/134 and Add.1), decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations", a sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community", and requested the Secretary-General to update the current report on the question and submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

2. Pursuant to that decision, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale dated 12 April 2002 to the Governments of the States Members of the United Nations requesting information on specific measures undertaken in implementation of the decision. He also dispatched letters dated 12 April 2002 to the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations requesting them to submit their contributions for the preparation of his report.

3. The present report is based on the information received from Member States and United Nations organizations and bodies as at 1 June 2002. Any further replies received will be incorporated into an addendum to the report.

II. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

A. Action taken by Member States

1. Australia

4. Bilateral Australian aid flows to Africa are estimated at $A 35 million for the financial year 2001/02, with the largest amount earmarked for SADC countries. Australia is assisting partner Governments fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic and improve food and water security and sanitation. In South Africa, Australian projects support social and economic reform programmes through capacity-building of public institutions, in agriculture, local government administration and vocational education. In Mozambique, projects support the delivery of essential services for the country's provinces.

2. Canada

5. Canada's bilateral assistance programmes in SADC member countries amount about $72 million per year, and are being implemented primarily in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, where the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) focuses mainly on poverty reduction, basic human needs, HIV/AIDS, governance and democracy, gender equity, social development and natural resources management. Other SADC countries (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles and Swaziland) benefit from Canada funds, Canadian Partnership Branch activities and regional programmes. Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo also receive important Canadian humanitarian assistance through the CIDA multilateral programme. The Agency's direct support to SADC, as an institution, has been modest in recent years, as projects in transport and technical assistance have been completed.

3. European Union

Political dialogue between the Southern African Development Community and the European Union within the context of the Berlin Initiative

6. The Berlin Declaration signed on 6 September 1994 established a comprehensive framework for dialogue between SADC and the European Union (EU) with the overall goal of promoting peace, democracy and sustainable development in southern Africa. Eleven areas of cooperation were identified, to which others were added later. Within the context of that dialogue, SADC and EU continued, in 2001 and 2002, to pursue common goals and interests and addressed new challenges and problems. Between June 2001 and June 2002, a number of meetings of the SADC-EU Joint Steering Committee and the SADC-EU Joint Committee of Senior Officials focused on two primary issues: the review of the 1994 Berlin Initiative and

preparations for the next Ministerial Meeting scheduled for 7 and 8 November 2002 in Copenhagen. With respect to the review of the Berlin Initiative, efforts were made to implement the mandate outlined at the Gaborone Ministerial Conference, held on 29 and 30 November 2000, at which it was agreed that, six years after its adoption, the Berlin Declaration would be reviewed in order to enhance both the quality of the dialogue and the overall partnership between SADC and EU. At the Senior Officials meeting held in Luanda from 24 to 26 April 2002, progress was made in the review process and on the preparations and the agenda for the November Ministerial Conference.

Assistance provided by the European Union to the Southern African Development Community

7. In 2001 and 2002, the European Commission continued to finance regional projects in direct cooperation with the SADC secretariat under the eighth European Development Fund, signed on 15 October 1996. The Regional Indicative Programme for SADC agreed on the following objectives and priorities with the SADC secretariat: enhancing integration and regional economic cooperation; promoting common economic, political and social systems and values; strengthening regional solidarity, peace and security; sustainable development; and integration into the world economy. The level of EU funds earmarked for cooperation with SADC under the eighth European Development Fund stands at over 121 million euros, with a total of 14 projects valued at 77.7 million euros approved in March 2002 and six projects totalling 52 million euros in the pipeline. Cooperation has focused on infrastructure and services; trade, investment and finance; agriculture and natural resources; regional integration in areas such as drug control and the fight against HIV/AIDS, including, inter alia, 13 million euros for the Monze-Zimba road rehabilitation project; 4.8 million euros for the regional statistical programme; 4.1 million euros for the second phase of the regional food security programme; 1.9 and 5.7 million euros for mining and fisheries, respectively; and 78.228 euros for the study on interregional capacities. The projects yet to be implemented include the Maize and Wheat Improvement Research Network project (15 million euros) and the Nacala and Walvis Bay corridors infrastructure project (8 million euros each) and 2 million euros allocated for the restructuring of the SADC secretariat. In addition to the projects undertaken in the above-mentioned sectors, an amount of 2.6 million euros was provided in support to the Lusaka peace process.

8. The regional strategy document and the Regional Indicative Programme for the period 2002-2007, which will set cooperation priorities to be financed under the ninth European Development Fund, are under preparation.

4. Germany

9. German bilateral financial and technical assistance to SADC member States amounted to almost 137 million euros in 2001 and was implemented through projects in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. Assistance to SADC regional projects amounted to 7 million euros to support intraregional trade, regional water management and transboundary management of natural resources, as well as support for institutional reform.

5. Norway

10. The Norwegian programme of cooperation with SADC in 2001 amounted to 128 million Norwegian kronor (NKr), with priority given to economic development, natural resources management, democratization/good governance and HIV/AIDS. The planned figure for cooperation with SADC in 2002 is NKr 180 million, focusing on the same areas of priority.

11. In 2001, Norway contributed NKr 10 million for the restructuring of the SADC secretariat. To date, another NKr 5 million has been allocated for the restructuring process in 2002.

6. Russian Federation

12. The Russian Federation has taken steps to develop ties with SADC at both the multilateral and the bilateral levels.

13. As a permanent member of the Security Council and as a member of the troika of observer States to the peace process in Angola, the Russian Federation consistently pursues a policy aimed at a speedy and peaceful settlement of the conflict in Angola. It welcomes the signing of the memorandum of understanding by the Angolan parties and is supporting the peace process in that country. It stands ready to continue cooperating with SADC in this process.

14. Within the framework of the Security Council, the Russian Federation is continuing to take steps, in close coordination with SADC and other interested countries, to bring about a settlement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, based on the Lusaka Agreement and relevant Security Council resolutions, and is supporting international, regional and bilateral initiatives to that end.

7. Spain

15. Spain has no development cooperation with SADC as an organization. However, it does have significant cooperation with SADC countries on a bilateral basis. In 2001, Spain's assistance amounted to nearly 18.5 million euros. In 2002, that figure will be 17.6 million euros. For 2002, Spain has earmarked the following levels of funding for cooperation in the SADC region: Mozambique, 9.1 million euros; Angola, 5.6 million euros; Namibia, 2.2 million euros; and South Africa, 514,000 euros.

8. Sweden

16. The disbursement of Swedish official development assistance to SADC and its member States amounted to 192 million euros in 2001. The aid was mainly concentrated on humanitarian assistance and projects in support of conflict prevention, good governance and human rights.

B. Action taken by the United Nations system

1. Department for Disarmament Affairs

17. Within the framework of its cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, the Department of Disarmament Affairs helped to organize a SADC workshop on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the United Nations Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures in Windhoek from 18 to 20 June 2002. The workshop examined confidence-building measures applicable in the subregional context regarding arms control. The project was implemented in cooperation with the Governments of Canada, Germany, Japan, Namibia and the Netherlands. In addition, the Department's Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament for Africa in Lomé continued consultations with the SADC secretariat to identify opportunities for further cooperation in small arms and light weapons control and the elimination of landmines.

2. Department of Peacekeeping Operations

18. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and SADC countries have continued to strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation in peacekeeping activities, particularly those relating to the peace process in the Great Lakes region.

19. The United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) works in close collaboration with SADC and its member States, within the framework of its mandate and the Lusaka Agreement, while providing technical and logistical support to the neutral facilitator of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue.

20. Through its Training and Evaluation Service, the Department provides technical assistance to the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre in Harare, as well as for bilateral capacity-building programmes of its member States through Standard Generic Training Modules and support to peacekeeping exercises. Assistance in training has included coordination of donor/sponsor support for courses offered in the subregion (Denmark in Zimbabwe) and students from the region attending various peacekeeping courses in other countries (Canada, Norway).

21. At present, four SADC member States (Namibia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) participate in the United Nations Standby Arrangements System and consultations continue to encourage other member States to join the System. Further discussions are being held on other areas of cooperation, including an initiative to establish a medical facility to be used by SADC members for training and for their contingents serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

3. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

22. In January 2002, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs established the post of Regional Disaster Response Adviser for Southern Africa, based in Gaborone. Since the deployment of the Adviser, the Office has developed a working relationship with the SADC Disaster Management secretariat. The Office is also currently working with

SADC member States, the secretariat and SADC technical bodies to harmonize efforts to address the food security crisis affecting the region. The field office in Angola is responsible for the coordination of humanitarian assistance to more than 1.9 million people.

4. Department of Economic and Social Affairs

23. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs is seeking to identify practical ways and good practices for mainstreaming a gender perspective into parliamentary policies, practices and decision-making, as a way of implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in the area of gender equity and sustainable human development. The Department's Division for the Advancement of Women, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, organized an Asia/Africa Parliamentarian Forum on Human Security and Gender, entitled "The Role of the Legislature" held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 24 to 26 March 2002. A number of parliamentarians from SADC countries and members of the SADC Parliamentary Forum participated in the meeting. One of the objectives of the Forum was to establish a sustainable network of a group of "critical" and influential parliamentarians from Africa and Asia who are advocates for gender equality and would contribute to the empowerment and knowledge networking among parliamentarians for strengthening national, regional and interregional parliamentarian efforts to promote gender equality and address priority issues relating to human security and gender.

24. The Department has also established partnerships with a number of stakeholders in support of SADC efforts to increase investment to the region. A conference on investment promotion in the SADC region was held in Rome, on 5 and 6 December 2001, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, the Italian Institute for Foreign Trade and the Centre for the Development of Enterprise. The conference focused on the policy and regulatory environment in the region, measures to promote investment, as well as foreign investment in SADC countries and the potential for new partnerships.

25. The Statistical Division of the Department works closely with the SADC secretariat to execute and technically support projects in population and housing censuses and large-scale demographic surveys. The Division conducted workshops on census management, census mapping, sample survey design and census data processing. It also conducted a census managers' meeting to review and evaluate census activities in SADC in 2001. These activities were funded from the SADC census support projects (RAF/99/P03 and RAF/00/P03) and the Division's regular programme.

5. Department of Public Information

26. United Nations information centres initiated various activities aimed at promoting cooperation between the United Nations and SADC. In conjunction with the Centre for Peace Initiatives in Africa, United Nations information centre in Harare organized a planning meeting in Denmark to draw up a training programme for civilians in peacekeeping operations in cooperation with the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre for Commanders and Team Leaders in Harare. On 16 November 2001, the Director of the information centre in Harare represented the United Nations at a graduation ceremony for 34 officers from SADC countries, as well as from Kenya and Madagascar, who had taken part in a United Nations peacekeeping course at the SADC Training Centre.

27. The information centre in Lusaka disseminated information on the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects to Government officials, diplomatic missions, non-governmental organizations and the media. The United Nations information centre in Windhoek arranged the airing by the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, of the United Nations film entitled "Armed to the Teeth".

28. During the workshop on the implications of the New Partnership for African Development for the SADC region, the information centre in Pretoria organized media interviews for participants with the Sowetan newspaper and the South African Broadcasting Corporation. It also provided the South African and other international media with updates on the Inter-Congolese Dialogue. Contacts were maintained with the SADC secretariat in Gaborone on an ongoing basis.

29. In its daily news and current affairs programmes for regional dissemination, United Nations Radio covered the problem of HIV/AIDS and the food crisis in southern Africa and the humanitarian situation in Angola. Radio interviews were conducted with senior United Nations and SADC officials. *UN in Action*

video programmes were produced on the issue of HIV/AIDS, as well as on sustainable economic and social development in SADC countries. In conjunction with the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations co-produced a documentary on young people in South Africa mobilizing themselves on this issue. Cooperation activities were also covered in press releases by the Meetings Coverage Section and by the United Nations News Service on the Internet (www.un.org/News).

30. The quarterly *United Nations Chronicle* published the following articles in 2001: Address by the Secretary-General to the African Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Infectious Diseases, Abuja, Nigeria; "What the World, and Its UN, Can Do" — emergency strategy for dealing with AIDS; "Managing Water for African Cities" — improving demand management, curbing water pollution, increasing awareness of conservation; "Sustainable Cities in Tanzania" — the National Programme for Sustainable Human Settlements Development; "From 'Planning the City' to a 'City that Plans'", dealing with urban growth; "Zambia's First Decade as an LDC" — the state of Zambia's economy. In 2002, the following articles were published: "Women as Victims and Resolvers of Hunger", by the First Lady of Angola, Mrs. Ana Paula dos Santos; "Catalyzing Economic Activity", describing the water projects of EcoLink and the LEAP Project for Sustainable Development in South Africa; Round-up of the "Durban Conference against Racism"; "Networking with Cisco Systems", describing the data communications company's work in training and improving the skills of students in least developed countries.

31. The *United Nations Yearbook* continued to cover cooperation between the United Nations and SADC by providing a brief description of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the subject and publishing the full text of the relevant Assembly resolution. *Africa Recovery* continued to reflect the cooperation between the United Nations and SADC, especially the work done with the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

6. Economic Commission for Africa

32. During the period under review, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) carried out a number of activities in cooperation with the SADC secretariat and SADC sector programmes. ECA is monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action at the national, subregional and regional levels. The monitoring and evaluation tools were endorsed by the statutory Committee on Women and Development and will be put into operation by member States after requisite capacity-building training programmes co-organized by SADC and ECA for national senior officers in southern Africa responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. A number of joint seminars and experts meetings on issues of gender and HIV/AIDS were organized during the period 2000-2002.

33. In the field of information and communication technologies, ECA assisted SADC in developing its communications strategy paper, entitled "Informing SADC and the world about SADC: an information and communication strategy for SADC".

34. ECA continued to provide advisory services to the SADC secretariat, including institutional and technical support on the analysis of economic and social data and on regional integration as a strategy for poverty reduction in the region. ECA assisted in the preparation of the 2000 SADC annual report on economic and social conditions in the subregion. The 2000 edition, which had two parts, addressed the issue of regional integration for poverty reduction in southern Africa and also analysed recent economic and social developments of SADC member countries. ECA also assisted the SADC Trade and Customs Committee in designing the SADC Customs Declaration. As a result of ECA technical assistance in Customs Declaration, both regional economic communities — SADC and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) — are now using a single clearance document for all customs related operations — import, export, transit, and warehouse — in an integrated method. This single document will facilitate trade flow and data unification. ECA also participated in the deliberations of the SADC Trade Negotiation Forum on Trade in Services. ECA participated in the SADC Regional Seminar on Labour Migration, held in Lusaka, from 6 to 9 March 2000 and in the SADC Meeting of Labour and Employment

Sector Committee of Ministers and Social Partners, held in Windhoek, from 26 February to 2 March 2001.

35. A major ongoing activity in the transport sector is the Beira Corridor Project, which is a joint COMESA/SADC/ECA initiative, financed by the African Development Bank.

36. Other projects under implementation include training workshops, reports on comparative transit transport analysis, road safety, investment and ECA/SADC collaboration in the development of Communication Surveillance/Navigation for Air Traffic Management System, as part of the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision on Air Transport Liberalization in Africa.

7. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

37. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) technical cooperation project on market access, trade laws and preferences has continued to support SADC negotiations. In 2001, the UNCTAD secretariat provided policy advice to SADC on the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Trade. UNCTAD participated in the following meetings organized by the SADC secretariat: the Trade Negotiating Forum, the High-level Committee on Market Access and Rules of Origin and two round tables.

38. The fourth phase of the UNCTAD Coordinated African Programme of Assistance on Services is supporting the SADC negotiations on trade in services regionally and multilaterally. The third Trade Negotiating Forum on trade in services for SADC member States, held in Mauritius, from 30 April to 2 May 2001, agreed on a template to be used for the negotiations. UNCTAD has developed templates on trade in services, which will also be used by SADC member States to conduct national workshops to assess trade in services with their stakeholders and identify policy objectives for regional and multilateral negotiations. In preparation for the request/offer phase of the General Agreement on Trade in Services negotiations, UNCTAD, the Commonwealth secretariat and the SADC secretariat, organized a regional Trade Negotiating Forum in Namibia from 20 to 24 May 2002.

39. In preparation for the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Doha from 9 to 14 November 2001, UNCTAD assisted the SADC secretariat in organizing and servicing preparatory meetings in Zimbabwe from 4 to 6 May 2001 and in Mauritius from 2 to 5 September 2001. UNCTAD officials participated as experts in the COMESA/SADC Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization held in Cairo from 27 to 31 July 2001.

40. As a signatory of the memorandum of understanding on the Interactive Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAINS) Dissemination programme (signed in November 1998), UNCTAD has provided the SADC International Trade Division and some SADC member States with copies of version 8.0 of the TRAINS CD-ROM.

41. The UNCTAD project on capacity-building for diversification and commodity-based development assists commodity-dependent countries to set up effective domestic and international policies for economic diversification and structural transformation, providing the right framework for successful exportation of dynamic non-traditional commodities, and to implement capacity-building activities. Regional workshops were organized on mineral economies in Cape Town from 7 to 9 November 2000 and on diversification and development of the horticultural sector in Nairobi from 29 to 31 May 2001.

42. UNCTAD cooperates with SADC member States on investment, technology and enterprise development issues through investment policy reviews and investment guides; on international investment arrangements through bilateral treaty round tables and training on negotiations; needs assessment to attract Asian foreign direct investment to Africa; launching of the UNCTAD *World Investment Report*; best practices in accounting, reporting and corporate governance; developing competitive insurance markets and enhancing participation of women entrepreneurs. The UNCTAD integrated capacity-building assistance programme on enterprise development (EMPRETEC) promotes the creation of sustainable small and medium-sized enterprise support structures to help entrepreneurs build innovative and internationally competitive small and medium-sized enterprises.

8. United Nations Development Programme

43. Priority areas in United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assistance to SADC include:

(a) Food security, which has become critical, owing to the current food crisis affecting several SADC countries. UNDP is working with other agencies to strengthen SADC preparedness and response mechanisms;

(b) HIV/AIDS regional programmes. Although the UNDP regional programme on HIV/AIDS is for the whole of Africa, it was conceived mainly in response to the crisis in southern Africa and hence, its main thrust is in the SADC region, where the health sectors in particular are working hard to address the challenges of the pandemic;

(c) Regional Human Development Report for the subregion. UNDP and SADC have followed up the publication of the SADC Regional Human Development Report with a high-level seminar. Two subregional Human Development Reports have been published so far;

(d) Land reform. In recent years, land reform has become a development challenge in southern Africa and UNDP is working closely with SADC countries on the issue;

(e) SADC Parliamentary Forum. UNDP supports the work of the Forum to promote networking related to democratic governance issues in the region;

(f) Development challenges and strategies. In addition to its support to regional countries in developing their development policies and strategies, UNDP also supports dialogue for a regional development strategy and support subregional collaboration. A regional approach would in turn enhance achievement in country-level efforts in areas, such as poverty reduction, tracking and fulfilling the millennium development goals and other development-related challenges;

(g) Gender. UNDP has supported the Regional Gender Programme of the SADC secretariat over a number of years;

(h) New Partnership for Africa's Development. UNDP is providing assistance to the New Partnership and will work with SADC on the initiative;

(i) Resource mobilization. UNDP is assisting SADC in building its resource mobilization capacity and to coordinate donor assistance to the region.

9. United Nations Population Fund

44. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has continued to provide funding for phase II of the Census Support Project. The project will strengthen the capacities of member countries in the collection, processing and dissemination of data and ensure properly planned and timely conducted population and housing censuses and other large-scale surveys. During 2001, the UNFPA contribution covered the cost of three workshops in census management, census questionnaire design and census mapping and cartography, including the use of geographic information systems, sample survey design and census data processing.

10. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

45. Cooperation between SADC and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was revitalized at a consultative meeting, held on 20 and 21 September 2001 in Gaborone, at which national commissioners for refugee affairs, national SADC liaison officials and UNHCR experts focused on regional harmonization on issues of refugee protection and solutions resulting in a renewal of commitment to uphold principles enshrined in the 1996 memorandum of understanding concluded between SADC and UNHCR. SADC has expressed an interest in establishing a regional working group on refugee-related matters. Representatives of SADC member States participated in the fifty-second session of the UNHCR Executive Committee, held from 1 to 5 October 2001, and issued a joint statement. UNHCR continues to participate as an observer in SADC ministerial and parliamentary meetings, where it is afforded the opportunity to raise issues relating to refugees, forced displacements and humanitarian assistance.

11. International Monetary Fund

46. The International Monetary Fund continued its assistance and advisory services, as outlined in paragraphs 57 and 58 of the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/56/134).

12. International Civil Aviation Organization

47. Through its Technical Cooperation Bureau, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

provides SADC with information and proposals on ways to improve aviation safety and oversight activities. In a separate activity, a comprehensive proposal has been developed with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and MONUC to provide technical advice, as well as supervise and undertake rehabilitation projects at a dozen airports required for safe MONUC operations. ICAO is also developing, in cooperation with Brazil, a comprehensive programme aimed at strengthening civil aviation capacity in Angola, including development of the main airports.

48. ICAO continues to assist and support SADC efforts towards liberalization of international air transport through implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision, and has participated in policy orientation activities pertaining to its implementation.

13. International Telecommunication Union

49. International Telecommunication Union (ITU) cooperation with SADC continued to be undertaken through the Southern Africa Transport and Communications Commission, which is a specialized branch that deals with telecommunications activities and the regional associations created within the framework of the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology, that is, the Southern African Telecommunications Administration and the Telecommunications Regulators Association of Southern Africa.

50. During the period under review, the main areas of cooperation included: assistance to the Southern African Telecommunications Administration through the Southern African Transport and Communications Commission in the feasibility study for the implementation of a Southern Africa Regional Information Infrastructure, which included network modernization and mechanisms of funding the upgrading of regional networks; the provision of an ITU expert for one year to secure the continuity of the secretariat of the Telecommunications Regulators Association of Southern Africa and technical assistance to the Association and its members in the implementation of their action plans.

14. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

51. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) technical cooperation with the SADC region is focused on small and medium-sized enterprise development, cleaner production, quality control and metrology standards essential for the promotion of regional and international trade. Technical assistance was provided for the development of small, medium-sized and microenterprises in South Africa and for the establishment of cleaner production centres in Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe. UNIDO participated in the rehabilitation of the industrial sector in Mozambique following the flood disaster in February 2000, with particular emphasis on the restoration of the salt production facilities. UNIDO assisted Lesotho in the preparation of documentation for its national implementation plan for persistent organic pollutants, which enabled the country to obtain US$ 488,950 in Global Environment Facility funding.

III. Conclusions

52. **In accordance with General Assembly resolution 37/248 of 21 December 1982, the Secretary-General has reported to the General Assembly on the assistance and support provided to the Southern African Development Community by Member States and the United Nations system. Until the end of the system of apartheid and the establishment of democratic governance in South Africa in 1994, the main focus of the reports was on the provision of economic and technical assistance to increase the economic self-reliance of SADC countries. Since that time, the international community in general, and the United Nations in particular, have supported SADC efforts to promote sustainable development and regional integration in a broad spectrum of economic and social areas.**

53. **In recent years, SADC has taken important initiatives in consolidating the progress made in the areas of consolidation and maintenance of democracy, peace and security. At their Summit held in Gaborone in 1996, the SADC heads of State launched the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security (see A/52/1001). Relevant departments of the United Nations and Member States have taken steps to initiate and strengthen cooperation with SADC and its member States in the areas of conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peace-building. The United Nations stands ready to increase its cooperation with SADC in these and related areas.**